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54 Improved low profile rubber keypad.

57 A low-profile rubber keypad (100) with good tactile feel and illuminability includes a plurality of layers adhesively bonded to one another. The top layer (102) of the keypad is a silicone rubber overlay having a plurality of keys protruding therefrom. The rubber overlay (102) is adhesively bonded to an actuation layer (106) including a plurality of thin actuating strips. The actuation layer (106) is adhesively bonded to a tactile layer (110) including a plurality of collapsible resilient domes. The tactile layer (110) is adhesively bonded to a shorting layer (114) including a plurality of conductors (134). The shorting layer (114) is adhesively bonded to a flex circuit layer (118) including a plurality of conductors (138).

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